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Message Text

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17
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03

OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 CEA-01 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AF-08 ARA-06 /099 W
---------- 045934
O 010700Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5066
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
US MISSION GENEVA 327
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN, IRSG, MY
SUBJECT: IRSG ROLE IN UNCTAD RUBBER CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 267331

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL, ECON COUNSELOR DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH LEW SIP HON MORNING NOVEMBER 1. LEW, WHO HAD RETURNED TO KUALA LUMPUR OCTOBER 31 FROM MONTH-LONG MISSION TO U.S. AND CANADA, APPRECIATED INFORMATION ON UNCTAD SECRETARIAT POSITION
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RE IRSG AND REITERATED HIS VIEW THAT IRSG HAD USEFUL ROLE TO

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PLAY IN CONSULTATIONS. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS PITY THAT PRIMARY
INDUSTRIES MINISTER MUSA HITAM WAS PRESENTLY ON MISSION TO
CHINA SINCE OTHERWISE DECISION ONE WAY OR OTHER,
ON SUPPORT OF U.S. POSITION
COULD HAVE BEEN OBTAINED IMMEDIATELY. NEVERTHELESS, LEW SAID
HE WOULD RAISE MATTER URGENTLY WITH DEPUTY MINISTER
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES LEONG, BUT EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT THAT LEONG
WOULD WISH TO MAKE DECISION ON THIS SUBJECT IN MINISTER'S
ABSENCE. SHOULD LEONG DECIDE FAVORABLY, INSTRUCTIONS WOULD
BE CABLED TO ABDUL FATAH, MALAYSIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER LONDON,
WHO WILL REPRESENT MALAYSIA AT NOVEMBER 2 IRSG EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING.

2. COMMENT: WE EXPECT THAT LEONG WILL DEMUR ON THIS ONE, ALTHOUGH
REQUEST BY ABDUL FATAH TO MINISTRY FOR GUIDANCE AS RESULT
THIGPEN REPRESENTATION COULD BE HELPFUL. SITUATION PROVIDES
INTERESTING TEST OF INTENTIONS AS TO WHETHER GOM, WHICH IS NOT
INCLINED TO ASSUME POSTURE DIFFERENT FROM LDC POSITION
ON OTHER ECONOMIC ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, WILL BE
WILLING TO DO SO AS MEMBER OF IRSG ON MATTER WHICH IS OF UTMOST
ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO MALAYSIA. FAILURE TO SUPPORT IRSG ROLE
WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE THAT GOM SEES UNCTAD COMMODITY
CONSULTATIONS AS MECHANISM PROVIDING GENERAL POLITICAL IMPETUS
TO COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH SPECIFICS ON NATURAL RUBBER TO
BE WORKED OUT BILATERALLY BETWEEN ANTICIPATED INTERNATIONAL
NATURAL RUBBER STABILIZATION SCHEME COUNCIL AND CONSUMERS.
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To: STATE
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